

# THE OBSERVER



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SAINT JOSEPH'S COLLEGE RENSSELAER, INDIANA

## VARON CANTRELL NAMED SENIOR OF THE YEAR

by Bree Ma'Ayteh

At the senior dinner that took place on April 7, 2000, Varon Edward Cantrell was named Senior of the Year. "Any one of us could have gotten this award," he said modestly. "I'm honored that my peers looked at me for this."

And Cantrell has certainly earned the honor. During his four-year stay at SJC, he has been involved in numerous activities. He has been a member of the Student Union Board (SUB) for one year, a Student Representative from '97-98, a member of the academic cabinet, and a Resident Assistant for the last three years. He is also in the Gospel Choir, and is involved in the CCC (Campus Crusaders for Christ) Bible Study Class, which he himself started this semester. In addition to these extracurricular activities, Cantrell has also found time to develop his athletic side; he was both quarterback and wide receiver for the SJC football team, and a long jumper and triple jumper for track. His favorite activity? "MSU. It gave

me the opportunity to get together to bring some form of unity to a predominantly white campus. The students need to prepare themselves for the real world where there's a variety of races."

When I asked Cantrell to tell me about some of the things he has been involved in on campus, he laughed, confessing that he couldn't remember everything and had to look it up on his resume.

Varon Cantrell comes from Indianapolis, IN, and says he chose to come to Saint Joe because of its academic program, and also because of "the opportunity to play football." His major is Bio-Chemistry; he plans to go to medical school somewhere close to home. "I'd like to stay home with my family," he said.

He is very family-oriented, stating that his own family has guided him spiritually and making it a point to say that the award was dedicated to his grandmother, who passed away recently. He also had some

mentors, mentioning some teachers that he had before he came to Saint Joe. "Leroy Robinson was the social studies teacher at my middle school [in Indianapolis]. He helped me understand people." There was also Bradford

Braxton, his high school math teacher. "He helped me to become a better public speaker and to gain confidence in myself."

Not only is Cantrell focused on his family, but he's also VERY focused on God. "God is the most important thing there is. Everything I've accomplished means nothing without Him." Cantrell added: "I'm living for Him and whatever He wants me to do. We have limited time on earth, and we need to please Him, not others."

When asked what his proudest moment was at Saint Joe's, Cantrell replied, "It's going to be when I graduate. Everything else I've done is fine and dandy, but graduation is the ultimate [thing]."

And finally, some last words to his senior class: "You'll never be as suc-



photo by Lisa Phillips

**VARON CANTRELL** is this year's Senior of the Year. He received the award at the Senior Dinner that took place on Friday, April 7.

cessful as you aspire to be unless you put God first."

Congratulations Varon Cantrell!

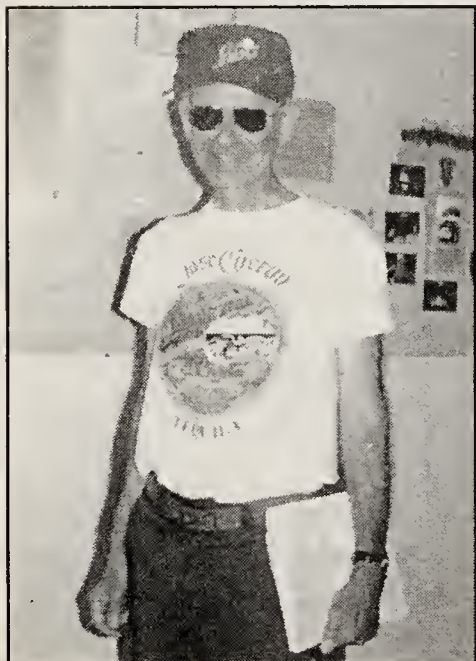


photo by Lisa Phillips

**FATHER JIM CHALLANCIN** is dressed casually for Little 500.

### A BIG THANKS FROM FATHER JIM

Dear Students of SJC,

I was really surprised by the plaque you students presented to me at Little 500. And what it said, "A good friend to the students," really hit home. A good friend to the students is certainly among the most important things I have tried to be for the campus.

I shall remember you. I am sure for a long time that my homilies in the parish will be full of happy stories about students and my days on campus. If you are ever vacationing in the Upper Peninsula, go by the Catholic church, see who the priest is. It might be me, and I sure would be happy if you knocked on the rectory door.

Your "friend,"

Fr. Jim

### What's In This Issue....

NEWS.....	1&3
The housing debate continues	
OPINION.....	2
The Editor-in-Chief says farewell	
FEATURE.....	4&9
Senior Success Stories	
LITTLE 500.....	5-8
Special coverage of the SJC race	
SPORTS.....	10-11
Ground broken for new track facility	
ET CETERA.....	12
Did you know....?	



## Observations about SJC

As you know, it is the end of another great year at SJC, and just when you thought it was safe, you picked up this issue of *The Observer* only to realize that I will never run out of opinions. Here's my problem this time:

Living on this campus has given me three things. 1) education (duh), 2) the ability to tolerate differences, and 3) a keen loss of observance skills (ironic, since this is *The Observer*). The only time I ever wonder about strange things on this campus is when I'm supposed to be doing something else. I don't know why, but these questions only hit me when I'm in the middle of writing twenty page papers for class. There are things on campus that I see numerous times everyday, but don't actually realize that they don't make sense until I have something important to do.

First of all, there is the infamous red velvet rope around the mural on the first floor of the Halleck Center. Does anyone know why that's there? Is it supposed to be protecting something, or is it for people to run their hands on while they're walking to keep them from fidgeting?

Secondly, can any one tell me why the street lights all around the campus seem to go off whenever it is dark and there are people around? It seems like every time I walk around the campus, or walk through the Sparling Lot, all of the street lights go off. Aren't they supposed to turn on?

With the school year at its end, there is not much time for you to wonder about the strange things on campus, and why they don't seem strange until you really think about them. But I hope that you can look back on all of the wonderful and bizarre qualities of Saint Joseph's College and think, "Why do they teach Core in the Science Building?"

Maura Giles  
Opinion Editor

## Countdown to Graduation

As I watch the countdown to graduation in the café, it occurs to me that in less than a month I will no longer be Editor-in-Chief of *The Observer*, and, strangely enough, I'm sad about that. Since I came here, we've struggled with issues, trying to get students involved in controversies like senate elections, parking problems, and bad cable. We've tried to show the roots of the campus and help people understand how very special this place is because of its heritage, and because of its unique perspective. We've shown some of the people who make this place special, past and present.

I think what we're really doing here is not only learning about our field of study, but learning about each other, how to care about one another, how to talk to one another and most of all, how to understand and value one another. That learning never really stops and I'm glad for it, because what I've done here has started something that won't end with me. Through the newspaper, we've challenged people to take on things that they didn't know they could. We've made a place for those challenges to be heard. And I hope we've brought people together under a common goal, even if sometimes that goal was to tell us to go to hell.

Recently, *The Observer* held a banquet in honor of the close of the year, as we do every year, and as I looked

around the table at the people who have made up the last two years of my life, I realized that even after I leave here in May, I'll have them with me. I'll have them in my confidence as I face the world, knowing that although I might not always get along with everyone I deal with all the time, I can see the value in each person and I can respect that. I think that's what Saint Joe has given me; a respect for humanity; an understanding that each individual has something within them that is infinitely valuable and worthy of consideration. That changes things a lot for me. I used to be able to give up on people and to a certain degree I've learned here when to cut my losses, but I can't give up completely and say, "Some people are just bad" anymore. I can't say that society is bad. I can't just say, "There's nothing I can do" anymore. That gives me a lot of power and responsibility. That makes me want to make a difference; a difference I feel in my heart is possible. I think that Saint Joe will continue to show people that they can make a difference and I certainly hope that *The Observer* goes to great lengths in the years to come to prove that to people.

To the readers of *The Observer*, I have only this left to say: Take your opportunities seriously. Make things better.

Lisa Phillips  
Editor-in-Chief

## Luxury vs. Necessity

I think building the residential suites for the upcoming school year was a bad idea. First of all, the dorms that we have now aren't exactly top-notch. Not all the dorms are air-conditioned, some of the lounge furniture is a million years old, and half the time the washers and dryers aren't washing or drying. In other words, the dorms that we have NOW are in desperate need of improvement. Why would the College build fancy-schmancy apartments when the regular dorms need the attention first?

Also, with the renovations going on with Halas and Gallagher, students have found it difficult to plan their living arrangements. Some students are fighting to live in the (soon-to-be-renovated) residence halls; others are being rejected for single room status because the extra space is needed. Instead of building an apartment complex that doesn't hold much more than a hun-

dred people, why not build another dorm like Justin, that has air conditioning, nice furniture, is open to all, and has the capacity to hold over 250 people? If they wanted it to be coed, they could have had a men's wing and a women's wing.

What I'm saying is that students do not need to live in apartment complexes with kitchenettes and living rooms. The basic needs should be met for all the dorms so that each dorm is an attractive place to live. All dorms should have nice carpeting and air conditioning. I don't understand why money was put into a luxury before meeting the basics. Students who are 21 are no more important to this school than the ones who are 18. Everybody is paying the same tuition to attend this school, so everybody should have the right to be proud of where they live.

Bree Ma'Ayteh  
News Editor

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**Letters to the Editor:** Letters to the Editor are not only accepted but greatly encouraged. The opinion page is a forum for student issues and should have student opinions. Letters may be sent to Maura Giles, Lisa Phillips, or placed in the Observer mailboxes, located on 2nd floor Core or 3rd floor Halleck Center. Letters should be between 350 and 500 words. *The Observer* reserves the right to edit length.

Pseudonyms are accepted but discouraged. Regardless, all submissions should be signed and include a valid telephone number.

*The Observer* also reserves the right not to print letters found to violate applicable policies.



## IT'S ABOUT A LACK OF COMMUNICATION...

by Lisa Phillips

What we have here, is a failure to communicate...

The Campus Life Committee stated at the Housing Forum recently that no rooms would be reserved for freshman in Halas and Gallagher for next year. Shortly thereafter a problem was discovered: the Admissions office has been showing the plans to prospective freshman under the assumption that rooms in the newly renovated halls would be available to them as freshman. As soon as the problem came to light, the Administrative staff (basically all the vice-presidents and the president) got together, discussed the situation and brought the question up with Ernest Watson, assistant Vice President of Student Affairs and supervisor of Campus Life. The decision was made to save space for twelve freshmen in each of the newly renovated dorms. Andrea Reusser, director of Campus Life, explained what she knows about the subject, "The Campus Life office and Student Affairs were unable to set this policy until late February, because we were waiting on finalized plans for Halas and Gallagher. We set this policy, put out our documentation, scheduled housing forums, etc. As we continued on until room selection, something happened; what I don't know. The vice presidents met and the Campus Life office found itself being told to reserve rooms for freshmen in Halas and Gallagher."

This situation brings up major problems for current students. In a practical sense, even fewer current students are going to be living in the renovated dorms. Halas and Gallagher have a current capacity of 111 each, but will only have a capacity of 65 and 63, respec-

tively, after renovations. Reserving spaces for freshmen made it even more difficult for current students to secure a room, causing a lot of people to be extremely disappointed concerning their housing situation for next year. "I will listen and try to work out something for every student who feels they didn't get their first housing choice because of this," promises William Manis, vice president of student affairs. He went on to explain that although students might not be able to get their first choice in housing, he would do his best to make students happier in their housing situation.

Many students are angry because the limited space is breaking up Halas and Gallagher communities that have been together for years. Unfortunately, this is unavoidable, says Manis, explaining that there will be less space available and therefore some people who lived there before will have to live elsewhere.

Symbolically, however, there is another concern. Some students are saying that by reserving rooms for incoming freshmen, after having said they would not do so, Campus Life and the Administrative staff are valuing incoming freshmen above current students. Manis explains that current students have more housing options than incoming freshmen, including private rooms, Schwietermann, or the new dorm. These options are not available to incoming freshmen.

It was also a matter of keeping promises, says Albert Shannon, president of Saint Joseph's College. "We have an obligation to stand behind what Admissions is saying." He went on to explain that this situation was a simply a lack of communication.

William Manis agrees. "When you change things, there's no level of communication that is adequate," stated Manis. "There was no malicious intent to mislead anyone." Part of the problem, Manis claims, was "the planning wasn't done far enough in advance." The definite plans for renovations were not even ready until early this semester, making it practically impossible to work out all the problems that could arise. Also, Manis, who has nineteen years of experience working with housing issues, was on sabbatical during most of the planning process, putting even more strain on Campus Life and the other vice presidents, who took on his workload. There is also no standard procedure concerning dealing with housing changes and notification, basically meaning that Admissions was not obligated to talk to Campus Life and Campus Life was not obligated to talk to Admissions.

The miscommunication, says Manis, was really no one's fault. Admissions was referring to the normal policy, set forth by the Student Affairs office, which reserves rooms for freshmen in every dorm unless an exception is made and Campus Life thought they were being clear in the documentation they published concerning the housing, "We will use the current housing lottery system to

place students in the Gallagher and Halas

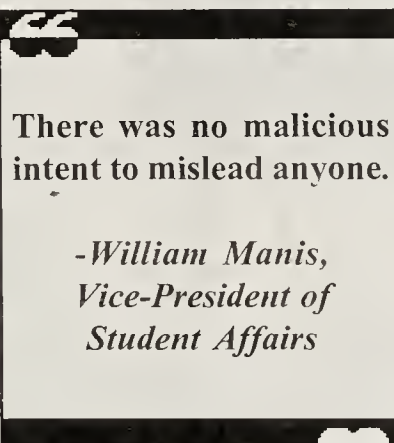


suites. Each student will be randomly assigned a number by class. That number will then allow

you to sign up for rooms. We will allow anyone to sign up until all the spaces are filled. Squatting will not be allowed in Gallagher or Halas this year." Basically meaning that no rooms would be reserved at all, no matter what. Reusser stands behind that decision. "If Halas and Gallagher, buildings which were presented to several groups of people as a stepping stone to the Residential Suites, are to be used as such, freshmen should not be living there. The buildings were to be a reward for those students who had put in their time at SJC and had proven a commitment to this institution."

"I don't want people to think that Marcus [Jackson] and I made the decision and then lied to them. I think if anything this office tries to be very honest with people. We told people what we knew at the time," said Reusser, adding, "I feel terrible about it."

However, some questions remain. Could a more suitable compromise have been reached? Why wasn't the Campus Life office consulted before this decision was made? Outraged students have circulated petitions voicing their indignation. Manis has offered to work out alternatives with students who are unable to get rooms in Halas or Gallagher because of the mix-up. Students concerned about the issue should contact Student Affairs or a member of the Administrative Staff.



## SENATE PASSES BILL FOR FALL FEST 2000

by Amanda Grote

Fall Fest 2000 has been approved by the SJC student Senate Association (SA). Fall Fest 2000 was a proposal to SA requesting that Saint Joe have a day of festivities following the homecoming game for the next academic year. The main attraction of the event will be a well-known musical act. Negotiations are still being made regarding the band selection. The acts under consideration are The Goo Goo Dolls, Matchbox 20, and John Mellencamp. The band will

be set up to perform facing south on the IM Field.

Tickets for the event will cost approximately \$5.00 for SJC students, and \$10-\$25.00 for outside attendees from the community and surrounding areas. The school is expecting an attendance of between eight and ten thousand people. Tickets will be sold on-line as well as by e-mail, telephone, and mail order. A ticket office will be set up on campus as well. All seating will be general admission.

Fall Fest 2000 will be widely publicized, with the hopes of drawing crowds from Indianapolis, Chicago, Lafayette, South Bend, and surrounding areas. The event will be sponsored by the Alumni Office, SA, the Student Union Board (SUB), ticket sales and corporate sponsorships. When asked for his thoughts on the event, SA treasurer Derek Dabrowiak said, "I'm excited about this! I think this will be a campus and community unifying event that will put Rensselaer on the map."

## OOPS!

The March 30th issue of The Observer had two mistakes: In the article "Father Jim prepares to Leave SJC", Father Heiman's name was incorrectly spelled. Also, the picture of Father Dennis Criszt was taken by Sean Egan, not Charles Martin. We apologize.



## Vice President Manis returns from sabbatical

by Lisa Phillips

A familiar face has returned to Saint Joseph's College. William Manis, Vice President of Student Affairs is back on the job after a three and a half month sabbatical.

"I found myself in November and December incredibly worn out," explained Manis, who was instrumental in getting the new residential suites on campus. "I've been in [this] position for nineteen years and so the president talked to me and we mutually agreed that I could take some time off - about three and half months. He was very generous in saying I could rearrange my schedule and I presented to him a plan on what I wanted to do, how I was going to refresh myself, rest, and also learn about some issues that are facing the division of student affairs." During his absence, his duties were divided among the other vice presidents.

His travels first took him, in early December, to a Jesuit retreat house in Dayton, where he spent four days. "I thought it was important for me to just stop and assess who I was and do some soul searching in regard to my commitment to life, so to speak, and the issues that face me."

He then traveled to several small schools around the country and attended two conferences specifically geared toward professionals in the field of student af-

fairs, looking for ideas and making contacts. What he brought back is interesting. "I got a very clear picture of how dedicated student affairs people are." It was helpful to Manis not only to see others' dedication, but also to see how they were dealing with problems similar to the ones we have at Saint Joe.

Manis explained that although our health and counseling services are quite good, comparatively, we

are a bit behind as far as new construction goes. But, he came away from his experience assured that the housing plans currently in progress are competitive and that the Master Plan is going in the right direction.

"To view issues in a different light was of great value to me." He explained that backing away from his everyday routine helped him to view problems more intellectually and value the insights and advice of student affairs professionals from other schools.

Manis was particularly impressed by the other colleges' emphasis on their mission, their dedication, friendliness and how well some of the schools' departments worked together in order to make the schools a better place. These impressions gave Manis many ideas for Saint Joe, including looking into the possibility of fulfilling workstudy requirements through community service. Manis also recognized St. Mary of the Woods College in Terre Haute for helping single mothers go to school. "It's a Catholic institution making a difference in lives - one person at a time," he commented.

Manis was also encouraged because he was "welcomed wonderfully at every college." He says that the people he spoke with seemed to truly have a vision of what their college should be. He feels that SJC is really on the right track with housing trends, dedication to the mission and emphasis on community service. "It gives me great hope for Saint Joe."



Photo by Lisa Phillips

**VICE PRESIDENT FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS BILL MANIS** recently took a leave of absence from SJC to study student affairs programs at other colleges.



by Don Shanahan

Alas, another school year comes to a close right when the summer movie season starts to heat up. The big hitters like *Gladiator* and *Mission: Impossible 2* are lined up for May, but it seems like the season starts earlier every year, spilling into April. No matter what season of the year, not many movies can boast a tandem like Tommy Lee Jones and Samuel L. Jackson. They star in *Rules of Engagement*, my final review this year.

*Rules of Engagement* combines the star wattage of its two leading men with the courtroom intensity of *A Few Good Men* and the cloaked battle investigation like that of *Courage Under Fire*. Samuel L. Jackson is Colonel Terry Childers, a living legend in

## 'Rules of Engagement' kicks off summer movie season

the U.S. Marines who has seen frontline combat and decorations for thirty years. Tommy Lee Jones is Colonel Hays Hodges, a Vietnam vet and friend whose life was saved by Childers. After the war, Hodges became a lawyer and has since retired while Childers has played hero.

Childers leads a Marine rescue mission for the U.S. Ambassador to Yemen that goes terribly awry. After a peaceful demonstration turns sour, three Marines go down, ambushed by crowd and sniper fire. Pinned down with no alternative, Childers orders his men to fire into the hostile crowd, killing 87 demonstrators and wounding 100 more.

By the time the investigation rolls around, evidence has been destroyed and no weapons are found among the dead making it look like a Marine-provoked massacre ordered in rage by Childers. The media backlash labels Childers a murderer while the government throws the book at him with a court marshal

against the young, arrogant attorney Major Biggs, played absolutely masterfully by Guy Pearce of *L.A. Confidential*. With his life on the line, Terry only has one person he can trust to defend him—his old friend Hodges.

Samuel L. Jackson and Tommy Lee Jones are two of the best actors working today. Not many actors can match both their rugged intensity and commanding presence. Jackson has made a career of loose cannons from *Pulp Fiction*, *A Time to Kill*, *187*, and *The Negotiator* while Jones has won praise and an Oscar as the relentless trooper in *The Fugitive*. When the two are combined together in *Rules of Engagement*, their shared qualities complement and merge perfectly together. The movie itself is an involving and intelligent courtroom drama that is full of surprises and laced with exciting action sequences that won't disappoint the action junkies out there. *Rules of Engagement* definitely gets my 21-gun salute.



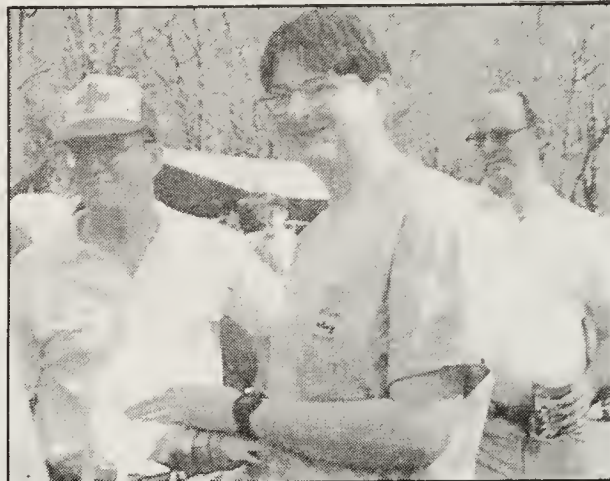
# Blood, Sweat and Tears

No race is without its fair share of problems... This year's Little 500 was no exception



**BAILING HAY IS DANGEROUS!!!** Frosyni Douramacos watches the race from the comfort of a blanket, with Julie Lyzun, in front of Halas. She suffered a minor sprain to her ankle during track set up the day before the race when she stepped wrong while unloading hay from the wagon, making her the first injury of the Little 500 race and proving that it's not just the drivers who are in danger.

**OH MY ACHING THUMB?!?!** Roger Burns, '00, alternate driver for The Thunderbrats Racing team, lost control coming out of turn four and was struck by Craig Phipps, '00. Burns was thrown out of his kart, causing the only red flag of the student race. Although the wreck looked extremely bad, Burns only suffered a sprained thumb and a few bumps and bruises.



**"SORRY I HIT YOU!!!"** Craig Phipps, '00, the other driver involved in Burns' red flag shared an ambulance with Burns, which took them to the local hospital as a safety precaution. After x-rays were taken it

was determined that Phipps' leg was not broken, but he suffered from an extremely deep bruise.

## After the Race



Following the race drivers and crewmembers join together to help each other disassemble the karts. They take the motors off, drain the oil, siphon the gas out of the tank, and tuck the karts away until they are needed for the next Little 500 Go-Kart Race.





# The Alumni Race

For the seventh year in a row, the Alumni race took place at Saint Joseph's College. This year 12 alumni came back to race in this in their new time honored tradition.

Many different classes are represented in this race, anywhere from the graduating class of 1968 to the graduating class of 1998. The alumni come back

and not worry about scaring the student drivers.

Today many alumni are still involved with the student race. Some of them sponsor current students and help them in their pit crews. Because of their experience with this race, they are looked to for advice and help, which they are always willing to give. The advice helps

the student racers by making them aware of the finer points of the sport.

Most of the alumni who come back for this race, compete year round in kart racing, making it more than just a bit of fun for the end of the school year. Some racers get so intent

on winning that they forego normal safety protocol, as was evidenced by this year's only alumni red flag (Paul Ycoman, '72, was uninjured after being dragged by his kart coming out of turn four).

All in all, the alumni race this year proved to be an exciting event, building ties between current students and students of the past, and making for a very fun spectacle.



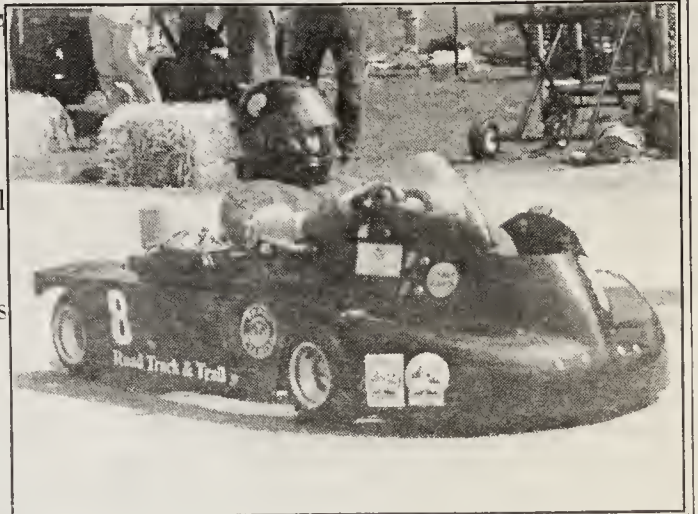
to Saint Joseph's College to catch up on old times, compete for the first place title, and just to have a relaxing weekend.

The race, when it first began was combined with both the current students of Saint Joseph's College and former students of the college. The race was separated because the alumni had a tendency to go faster and engage in moves that are more daring on the track. This allowed the alumni to show off their own ability

## Family Tradition

For a family of racers, the annual Little 500 Go-Kart Race is something that is not taken lightly. The Messman family has been involved with the

race for years now. Every year if you go out to the track during the race, you will find Tom Messman, Sr. class of 1968, his two twin sons, Tom Messman, Jr. and Jon both graduates of the class of 1990.



Tom Messman, Sr.

These three gentlemen have graciously helped students and alumni drivers with their karts before, during and after the race. The Little 500 Executive Committee, thanks the Messman family for all of their hard work and determination to help with the success of this race.

## We're Back!



**DID YA MISS US!???** Recent Saint Joe Grads come back for a relaxing and enjoyable weekend with former classmates.



**CATCH ME IF YOU CAN!** Alumni take their final parade lap before the green flag. *photo by Fr. Tim McFarland*



**HERE WE GO!!!!** Alumni drivers put the pedal to the metal as the head flagman waves the green flag, signaling the beginning of the seventh annual alumni race.



# The Student Race

This year's Little 500 was the first race of the new millennium and it proved to be a very competitive and eventful race. Before beginning the student race, Craig Phipps, who posed as Father Jim Challancin attempted to lead the pre-race Benediction. Before he could get too far, the "real" Father Challancin tapped Phipps on the shoulder and grabbed the microphone, saying: "It takes the real one to get this one done." Directly after the Benediction, Bob Spychalski, who was the Little 500 Chairman, presented Father Challancin with a Thank You plaque from the students of Saint Joseph's College.

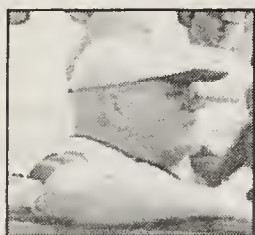
Following the presentation of the Thank You plaque, Grand Marshal, Phil Wilhelm, resigning President of the Board of Trustees uttered those famous words, "Gentleman Start Your Engines!" At that, the engines came to life as the drivers' crewmembers pulled the recoil cord. The engines, sputtering and growling, waited impatiently for the chance to spring forward and claim their territory.

After following the pace car for three laps, the racers began the test of endurance, speed and ability. For the next two hours and forty-five minutes, the student drivers and their karts were as one.

Coming down the front

straightaway, Defending Champion, Craig Phipps in kart 99 and Poll Leader Jill Masters in kart 50 battled against each other for the stronger position going into turn one.

Masters backed down at the last second to avoid a possible collision, but regained the first place position coming out of turn two when Phipps' recoil cord broke, causing him to lose speed and eventually requiring him to pit.



Phil Wilhelm

Masters held onto the lead until she pitted for a refueling. It was then that her teammate, Chris Whitacre overtook Masters for the lead. Whitacre held the lead for 20 minutes before he pitted, which allowed Masters to regain the lead.

On lap 43 Senior Shawn Roser of Webbed Rosey Feet Racing in kart 41, blew his engine and was forced to watch the remainder of the race from the pits.

On Lap 60 kart number 4, driven by co-driver of Thunderbrats Racing, Senior Roger Burns spins out in turn 4 and is thrown out of his kart after being struck by kart number 99 driven by Senior Craig Phipps.

Phipps, who was able to complete

another lap, realized that his throttle was stuck, which forced him to kill his engine. Phipps maneuvered his machine through turn 3 before stopping due to the red flag that had been thrown. After coming to a safe stop Phipps climbed out of kart 99 and asked on his fellow racer Burns if he was okay. Phipps then realized that he had

sustained an injury to his right leg.

Having been checked over by the

paramedics, Phipps and Burns were then transported to Jasper County Hospital for further medical attention. Both were cleared and returned to watch the rest of the race.

With five minutes left to go in the race, Chris Whitacre raced past Masters to retake the lead again. Masters could not catch him. In the end teammates Chris

Whitacre and Jill Masters of Masters of the Universe Racing finished first and second respectively.



Chris Whitacre, first place winner



CREWS WORK on karts 4 and 99, Rhiannon Davis/Roger Burns and Craig Phipps, prior to their collision in turn four.

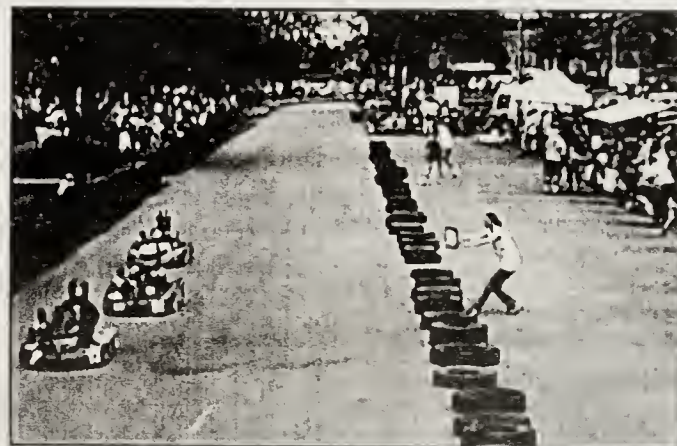


photo by Fr. Tim McFarland

## SIGNS, SIGNS, EVERYWHERE SIGNS!

Crew Member Sarah Martin, '01, rushes out to hold up sign to driver Kris Krouse, '03, giving vital information, support and the occasionally comic relief.



**LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, START YOUR ENGINES!** Immediately following Fr. Challancin's benediction (above), drivers take their first three laps following the Grand Marshall (below) as pit crew members look on, anticipating the green flag.



**WATCH OUT for the squirrels!!!** Head Track Marshall Jill Stevens, '00, and Team Manager Susan Welter, '00, share a laugh before the racing begins.



# Little 500 Events

## Excerpt from 2000 Little 500 program

It has been said that Rome wasn't built in a day. The same can be said of Little 500. This year's event is the culmination of thirty-seven years of building and changing, but Little 500 is far from complete. Originally, the 500 stood for 500 minutes of racing (over eight hours), and the participants drove or pushed wooden chariots around a track that wound

around the Science Building. At the time of the first race, students endured pain and injury (and likely bouts of insanity) for the whopping prizes of \$50 for first place, \$30 for second and \$20 third.

The roar of go-kart engines was heard for the first time in 1970. Local businesses helped in the trans-



photo by Lisa Phillips

**THANK YOU...thank you very much.** Mike Potts, sophomore history major, gives the crowd some tender love by performing his Elvis impersonation on the track between the alumni and student races. Potts has become renowned all over campus and the surrounding community for his ability to swing like the king. "Any Elvis fans out there?"



**MR. PUMA!**...Contestants in the Mr. Puma contest, held Thursday, pose for a picture. No shy guys here!

formation to motorization through donations of fuel, funding and mechanical work. The engines added a new element of danger as the 1972 winner recorded a record 179 laps with several laps reaching speeds of over sixty miles per hour. The 1973 Little 500 featured a new seven tenths of a mile track that ran from Gallagher Hall to Justin Hall, east behind the Grotto, north by the water tower, and then west in front of the Science Building. Advances in professionalism and safety were made as pre- and post-race engine inspections were instituted, and an ambulance was put on stand-by.

Due to the 1980 domination of a Honda overhead cam engine, the decision was made to provide standardized engines to the competitors. This was made to ensure that the race was more about driving skill and less about financial support. The competition got closer and the racing more enjoyable. The two pedestrian bridges that now provide access to the infield were built and first employed in 1987. Spectators were now able to get closer to the action without endangering themselves or the drivers. That year also saw the addition of two chicanes and a reduction in race time to only two hours.



**JASSY GRAZZ**, winner of the 2000 Battle of the Bands which took place right after the student race, performs here among a crowd of admirers. **RIGHT:** Bill Bell, class of '97, jams to the sounds of Downfall.



tion was started with the introduction of a one-hour long Alumni race. The race allowed for the more experienced (and, frequently, more daring) alumnus to have their hour in the sun while the students could enjoy a relatively less stressful two hour and forty-five minute race of their own without the threat of being blown away.

Today, the Little 500 spectacle encom-

passes events that span an entire week: Mr. Puma, the Little 500 Queen contest, bands, booths, carnival entertainment, and the beer and brat tent. The prizes greeting the winners include \$500 for first place, \$250 for second, \$150 for third, \$100 for fourth, \$75 for fifth, and \$50 for sixth place. Additionally, the top three finishers receive plaques.

Activities the week of the race included the infamous Mr. Puma Contest, a Halas/Gallagher cookout, a Justin/Seifert Street-Fest, and a Core XI Open Night. Race day was particularly busy this year, with the traditional beer and brat tent, lemonade shake-ups provided by MSU, Little 500 t-shirts on sale, plus the Transender 3D Simulator, the Battle of the Bands and an outdoor Raku Kiln firing by the Prairie Arts Council.

In 1994 a new Saint Joe Little 500 tradi-



Bonnie Zimmer, her mother, and MJ Shannon work at the outdoor Raku Kiln firing by the Prairie Arts Council.



## School year draws to a close for SJC seniors



—by Mandy Meyers & Sara Post—

With the school year coming to a close, SJC seniors will be attending many class activities together for the last time. From their last Little 500 to the traditional senior dinner, the senior class will be very busy during these last few weeks of school.

Senior class president Sarah Grubb has been in charge of coordinating all of the events. She is still in the process of putting together the finishing touches on the last of the senior traditions.

As of now the winners of the senior awards have not been released but will be announced at the senior brunch on Friday, May 5. However, on April 7 at the annual senior dinner, the prestigious Senior of the Year Award was presented. The winner was Varon Cantrell whose family also accompanied him that night. After his speech, he was awarded a plaque and a standing ovation from his classmates.

In addition to the actual commencement ceremony, a number of activities are scheduled to take place during graduation weekend. On Thursday,

May 4, after the underclassmen are all packed up and on their way home, a diploma signing party will be held at President Shannon's house followed by a senior party at Core XI. After the senior brunch on Friday, there will be a number of events held on the IM field. Later that night, seniors will attend their final dance at SJC.

On Saturday, there will be events geared toward seniors and their families, starting off with a picnic at Lake Banet. The Baccalaureate Mass will be held that evening, followed by the President's reception and dance in the Halleck Ballroom. A senior slide show will cap off the evening.

Before the graduation ceremony on Sunday, there will be a community buffet brunch. Commencement will take place at 1 o'clock p.m. in the Fieldhouse. Thomas Mooney is scheduled to be the commencement speaker. A reception will be held in the Core building immediately following the ceremony.

So as the seniors enjoy their last days here at SJC, we would like to wish them the best of luck in all their future endeavors.

## Senior Success Stories

Although seniors are preparing to live it up during their last few weeks at SJC, the "real world" looms ahead. Whether they have lined up a job, internship, or plan to go on to grad school, these seniors have got it together. *The Observer* would like to congratulate them on their success.

### Andrea Batista

Major: Political Science

Plans: Will attend Thomas M. Cooley School of Law in Lansing, MI.

### Brad Bonkoski

Major: Computer Science/Political Science

Plans: Accepted a position with Motorola as a software engineer.

### Jeffrey Capadona

Major: Chemistry

Plans: Will attend Georgia Technical Institute to study Biochemistry and Biomedical engineering

### Patrick Cleaver

Major: MMIS

Plans: Accepted a position with Complete Business Solutions, Inc. in Indianapolis, IN as a consultant.

### Dana Collins

Major: Biology/Chemistry

Plans: Accepted a position with Abbot Laboratories in North Chicago, IL as a supervisor.

### Kristi Donnelly

Major: Math/Computer Science

Plans: Accepted a position at Micro Database Systems in Lafayette, IN.

### Michael Huseman

Major: Political Science

Plans: Will attend Ohio Northern School of Law in Ada, OH.

### Daniel Hushek, III

Major: Finance

Plans: Accepted a position at American Express Financial Advisors

### Rory Johnson

Major: Finance

Plans: Accepted a position with Donnelley Marketing in Naperville, IL in the field of database production.

### Jon Paul Keller

Major: Management

Plans: Accepted a position at Computer Discount Warehouse as an account manager.

### Jason Miller

Major: Management

Plans: Accepted a position at Speedway as a manager.

### Amanda Munson

Major: Psychology

Plans: Will attend Butler University in Indianapolis, IN to study school counseling.

### Susan Welter

Major: Communications/Theater Arts

Plans: Has accepted a position with the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on the Judiciary in Washington, D.C. as a personal assistant specializing in public relations.

## SJC community celebrates Lenten season

—by Nick Schafer—

Throughout the school year Campus Ministry organizes many activities to enhance the spiritual life of the SJC community. One of their busiest times, though, is during the Lenten season. This holds true especially this year with the season of Lent falling so close to the season of "Second Semester Hysteria." With research papers, Core X presentations, and many seniors preparing to leave the security of Saint Joseph's, this time of the year is especially busy.

In a recent interview with SJC Chaplain Fr. Jim Challancin, some of the Lenten services were brought to light. On April 11 the "Lenten Reconciliation Service" was held. The service was one of personal reflection and self examination, with the sacra-

ment of Reconciliation being offered at the end for those who chose to participate. The next Lenten service is the Service of Shadows.

In his last *Observer* interview as SJC Chaplain, Fr. Jim related some of the historic developments of Lent. Lent has always been a time of preparation for those preparing for Baptism on Easter Sunday. With all this talk of Lent and preparation for Easter, the question of discipline comes into play. Fr. Jim agrees with this idea and stated as much when he said, "The

21st Century is a hard time to celebrate Lent and slow down for God." Though it seems frustrating, Fr. Jim maintains that the SJC community has answered the

call of God and many have taken steps to be faithful in their observance of Lent. Fr. Jim further commented that, "Lent is a time of discipline, self-examination, and a time to be open to the Grace of God in which we can be reoriented back to God."

***"The 21st Century is a hard time to celebrate Lent and slow down for God."***

***-- Fr. Jim Challancin***

to appreciate how much God loves us." Fr. Jim will be saying his final good-byes to SJC at the 9 o'clock mass on the last Sunday of the year, April 30th.

As Lent and the school year come to an end, and as Fr. Jim and SJC prepare to part ways our faithful pastor had these few parting words: "If anything, I want the students and the entire community



## Ground Broken for New SJC Track Facility

*Saint Joseph's College Sports Information  
Press Release*

Saturday, April 8th, 2000, was a historic moment for the Saint Joseph's College Track and Field program. At that time Dr. Albert J. Shannon (President of Saint Joseph's College) along with Bill Massoels '89 (SJC Athletic Director/Head Track and Cross Country Coach), Mike Vallone '60 (SJC Board of Trustees), Tim Downey '60 (SJC Board of Trustees), Tom Kuhar '64 (SJC Alumni Board President), Phil Schroeder (SJC Student Association President) and Karen Austin '89 all were on hand to break ground on the new track at Saint Joseph's College. The Track will be located on the west side of Alumni Stadium. It will have Sparling Avenue on its west side.

Saint Joseph's College's track will be completed sometime this mid-summer. The Puma track and field teams, under the direction of head coach Bill Massoels, will be able to compete on the track in the academic year 2000-2001. They will also be able to host home meets next season. Coach Massoels and his Puma track teams have been consistently ranked in the top 30 in the nation in the indoor and outdoor polls.



*The new track and field facility is expected to be completed this summer.*

*(Photo by Fr. Tim McFarland)*

## Softball Drops Doubleheader to Olivet

*by Lauren Roberts*

The Saint Joseph's softball team hosted Olivet Nazarene in a non-conference doubleheader last Thursday, April 6. The Pumas were defeated in both games, 9-1 and 3-2, despite the valiant efforts of the players. Following these games, the record of the Pumas is 7-25 overall and 3-13 in the conference.

Olivet took control offensively early in the first game, cruising to their 9-1 triumph.. Senior Stacey Dehaven led the Pumas at the plate, hitting 2-for-3 with a double and an RBI.

Unfortunately, however, Dehaven was involved in a collision with Olivet's first baseman at the end of the first game and broke her wrist. Dehaven will miss the rest of the season due to the injury. Also batting 2-for-3 was sophomore outfielder Sarah Gray.

The second game proved to be a much closer battle when it came down to the bottom of the seventh inning and the Pumas lost by one run, 3-2, stranding the tying run on second base.

Leading the offense for the Pumas was Mary Mazurek, who went 2-3, followed by Andrea Claussen, who was 1-2 with an RBI. Niki Pecho, a freshman, also came through with a

double for the Pumas.

Over Little 500 weekend, the Lady Pumas played two twinbills and won three out of four. This improved their overall record to 10-26 this season.

Saturday, Saint Joseph's swept the University of Indianapolis 8-4 and 6-1. Pitcher Jill Lagerhausen was awarded the win in both games, while Beth Von Almen picked up her first save this season. Amy Creager had four hits on the day, including a solo home run in the first game. Claussen also came through with three runs batted in in the first game. Gray drove in two runs in the nightcap.

Sunday, the Northern Kentucky Norse came to Rensselaer and left with a split, as the Pumas won the first game 4-3 in nine innings. Lagerhausen struck out six on her way to the victory, which improved her record to 7-10 this year. Kristy Langen had two hits while Kim Hamel had two RBIs.

Game two was an exercise in offensive futility for the Lady Pumas, as they managed just three hits and losing 1-0. Von Almen

pitched a solid game but was forced to take the loss and drop to 3-8 this season.

The weekend puts St. Joseph's' conference record at 6-14. Senior Day is April 26th against Huntington College.

## Senior Success

Angie Hupfer has been named to the Women's Division II Bulletin All-American Fourth Team. She finished this season as Division II's leading scorer with her 25.3 scoring average. Hupfer finished her career as SJC's all time leading scorer (male or female) with 2,510 points.

Erich Hitzeman and Elbert Henderson participated in the National Football All-Star Game this past Saturday in Louisville. Hitzeman kicked a 46-yard field goal and connected on both of his two points after touchdowns. He also had two punts for a 45-yard average. Henderson had five tackles including a tackle for loss along with an interception.



## Upcoming SJC Athletic Events

Friday, April 21st

Baseball vs. Northern Kentucky (DH), 12pm

Softball at SIU-Edwardsville vs. Wayne State, 11am, vs. Ashland, 5pm

Track at Indianapolis (GLVC Championships), 1pm

Saturday, April 22nd

Baseball vs. Northern Kentucky, 1pm

Softball at SIU-Edwardsville vs. Saginaw Valley State, 9am, vs. Northwood, 1pm

Track at Indianapolis (GLVC Championships), 11am

Tuesday, April 25th

Baseball at St. Francis (IL), 3:30pm

Softball at Lewis, 3pm

## Athletic Shorts

by Clark Teuscher

-St. Joseph's' baseball team won four straight games this past weekend to improve to 24-17 on the season, with a 10-6 mark in the GLVC.

On Saturday, the Pumas took two games from Kentucky Wesleyan. In the first game, pitcher Mark Stasch pitched a shutout to improve to 5-2 this season as St. Joseph's won 4-0. Bob Bosserdet and Lucas Brunette led the offensive charge, as Bosserdet hit a solo homer and Brunette drove in two runs.

In the second game, Ryan Reffitt took the mound and recorded six strikeouts on his way to defeating the Panthers 5-3. Reffitt is now 4-4 this season. Brunette clubbed a two-run home run in game two as well.

Sunday, the Pumas recorded a narrow 1-0 victory in the first game on the strength of a five-hit pitching performance by Keith Nawrocki and Mark Gruzewski. Nawrocki was awarded the win, running his record to an excellent 5-1 mark for the 2000 season. Gruzewski recorded his

## Track Teams Tune up for GLVC Meet Little State Championships a Success

With just one week remaining until the Great Lakes Valley Conference Championships on April 21st and 22nd, the Saint Joseph's College men's and women's track teams competed in the Little State Championships at the University of Indianapolis on April 15th. With strong performances on both sides, the teams have some strong momentum heading into next week's competition.

Despite holding several athletes out of certain events to rest them for next week's meet, the Puma men were 6th out of 21 teams with 45 points, while the women finished 3rd out of 17 with a total of 74. Taylor University won the men's meet with 142 points, while Indianapolis' women were victorious, scoring 130.5.

The Lady Pumas got huge boost in the scoring column from junior thrower Kim Noon. Noon scored a total of 23 points on the day, winning the javelin throw (106'5"), taking second in the hammer (136'2") and placing fourth in the discus (128'3").

Other winners for the women were Dana Collins in the 100 meter hurdles (15.03 seconds) and Melissa Kleinmaus in the 400 meter hurdles (1:04.7). St. Joseph's finished 1-2 in the 400 hurdles as Jamie Marshall took second (1:06.21). Kleinmaus also placed third in the triple jump (34'2.75").

Others scoring points for the Lady Pu-

mas were Becky Garza (4th, shot put, 38'8.5", and hammer, 129'10"), Shannon Kline (7th, long jump, 16'3.5"), the 4x100 meter relay (7th, 52.19), the 4x400 meter relay (7th, 4:16.14), and Kelli Deckard (8th, shot put, 36'2.5").

On the men's side, the top individual performances were posted by Tim Newman, Joe Koczan, and Greg Myers, as each placed third in an event. Newman's was the 800 meters, where he finished in 1:54.78. Koczan took third in the discus with a distance of 163'1", just 11 inches from a provisional national qualifying mark. Myers' third place came in the high jump, where he cleared 6'6".

The Puma men also got points from Ricky McCray (4th, 100, 11.49), James Perkins (4th, 200, 22.68), Clark Teuscher (4th, 3000 steeplechase, 9:43), Koczan (5th, shot put, 49'8.5"), Jason Johnson (7th, long jump, 21'7"), Myers (7th, triple jump, 40'9"), and Aaron Thomas (8th, hammer, 142'11").

Teuscher's time in the steeplechase was a new school record, eclipsing the time of 9:45 he set two weeks ago at the Gerry England Invitational, also at Indianapolis. In that meet, freshmen James Perkins (400, 49.29) and Kevin Moeller (1500, 4:03.07) also toppled a pair of SJC bests. Last week at the weather-shortened Chicagoland championships, junior Jared Weller smashed the school record in the 10,000 meters, finishing in 32:14.

sixth save.

Game two was not nearly as exciting as its predecessor. Already leading 8-2 in the 7th inning, the Pumas exploded for eleven unanswered runs and ended up winning in a 19-3 laughter. Anthony Avila had four hits while Tim Chambers and Jeff Downs each recorded three runs batted in. Jim O'Dette got the win to go 3-4 so far in 2000.

The Pumas currently stand second in the GLVC's North Division, just one game behind the University of Indianapolis. This placing would be good enough to get St. Joseph's into the conference tournament.

Statistically, the Pumas rank first in the GLVC in runs scored at 9.6 per game.

-The Puma men's tennis team finished their 2000 season with a 5-1 home loss to Olivet Nazarene University. Russ Regan won at number two singles, 6-4, 6-4, for the Pumas' only

victory. St. Joseph's finished the season 0-14 overall and 0-9 in the Great Lakes Valley Conference.

-The golf teams' spring season is nearing a close, as the men's team competed in the Bellarmine Intercollegiate tournament. The Pumas' two-round score of 729 was good enough for 9th place in the ten-team field. Kevin Knaust shot a 160 for the tournament to place 19th individually.

The women's golf team had two of its members compete at the University of Indianapolis' Lady Greyhound Spring Classic. Beth Jerzyk tied for 24th place overall, shooting a 93 in the 18-hole tournament. Lindsay Serbin-Baltz turned in a 102 to finish 44th.

The women's team is finished for the spring, while the men will compete in Auburn, Indiana, at the District IV championships for their final meet until next fall.



**...?DID YOU KNOW?...**

Americans eat twice as much meat as Europeans?

To the rest of the world, the hamburger is the symbolic food of the United States. In fact, Americans eat twice as much meat as Europeans, gobbling up some 50kg (110 lb) per capita. Much of which is in the form of fast food. In 1986, the Slow Food Movement was established in Italy. It started as a humorous attempt to preserve the tradition of Italian foods and support small restaurants. Today, the Slow Food Movement is an international organization with more than 100,000 official members.

-info by didyouknow.com.

**Touching Souls**

*My soul lingers in yours*

*A whispering, muttering mass*

*An elegant mastery of dancing grace*

*Flung fully into fortune*

*Once scared, once alone*

*Now quietly being, gently reveling*

*Is there anything closer to perfection*

*Than sitting as we are,*

*One foot apart, a rose between us,*

*But within each other completely*

*Like a rainbow and the sky?*

~ Lisa Phillips

It is Maddening when...

...You are pulled in a thousand directions at once,

...Your heart tells you to pursue one path, but your body compels you to follow another,

... You love someone and they don't know you exist,

...You try your hardest and fail,

...You watch slackers and imbeciles succeed, without even trying,

... You fight the good fight, play by all of the rules, and still fail,

...You watch your hopes and dreams vanish in the blink of an eye

~Luke Nicholas

**Summer Night Waltz**

A warm gentle breeze blows  
in her bedroom window  
as she lies awake in bed.

An orchestra of fans whirl the  
air in a rhythmic motion  
through the stillness of the  
house.

She immediately finds herself in  
the middle of the room,  
spinning and twirling in her  
best nightgown.

~Christine Scafide

**Private Ocean**

*Waves of sadness wash over me,  
like the storm torn sea  
covers the piece of driftwood.  
I am cold and alone,  
lost in my ocean and drowning.*

*Then I hear your voice  
and my tears overflow  
from the dam built behind my eyes.  
Like little raindrops they fall  
and slide silently down my face.*

*Slowly I am becoming numb,  
listening to your words  
that are a warm blanket over me.  
My eyes grow heavy and close  
as peacefully I sleep, knowing you protect  
me.*

~Sharra Robertson

**NIGHTLIFE**

THE RATIONAL SUN HAS  
GONE TO BED,  
NOW THE HYPNOTIC MOON  
IS LEFT STANDING  
IN ITS PLACE.  
PEOPLE  
UNDER THE STARRY SPELL  
COME OUT TO PLAY.  
THEY DON'T CARE  
ABOUT OTHERS,  
THEY DON'T CARE  
ABOUT OPINIONS,  
ALL THAT THEY WANT  
IS TO HAVE FUN.  
DANCING,  
DRINKING,  
SMOKING,  
THIS IS THE NIGHTLIFE.

~ANN O'DONNELL